

(Bulletin for Idaho Statehouse and Capitol Mall Employees, July 23, 2001)

*Commencement of Restoration Ceremony Monday Morning*

## Idaho Capitol Restoration to Begin Monday, July 30 With Work Starting on Replacement of the East Steps



The Commencement of the Idaho State Capitol Restoration officially begins on **Monday, (July 30)** when the Capitol Commission holds a 10 a.m. ceremony on the east steps of the Statehouse. After the observance, **construction work will begin that afternoon on replacement of the east steps** of the Capitol, the first phase of the five-year, \$65 million restoration effort.

The east steps replacement is expected to be complete by the end of this year, and once done, workmen will immediately begin work on the west steps.

Statehouse and Capitol Mall area employees along with citizens can expect considerable disruption over the next several months as workers use jackhammers and other heavy-duty equipment to break-up the concrete, haul it away, and then begin the process of constructing the new steps. **The entire east lawn area will be cordoned off** with construction fencing and **business access will be denied** from the East Portico. For state employees, the first floor entrance will remain open most of the time, and as work progresses, a plywood tunnel

underneath the Portico will cover the entranceway into the first floor. The east sidewalks up to the stairs will be closed.

According to the **Division of Public Works-Department of Administration**, plans call for the replacement of the steps, the two landings, the supporting walls, and the underlying step infrastructure. There will be new railings and current light fixtures will be rewired. The Wing Walls will stay in place. As the step replacement gets underway, construction workers will begin setting up scaffolding at various locations, where masonry experts will be repairing the Capitol building's exterior stonework.

With all the construction activity, **noise levels** may be bothersome to employees in the Capitol Building itself, in nearby buildings, or to the general public visiting the Capitol. Public Works managers will be monitoring the situation closely to determine if and when other options will be taken to minimize the disruption as much as possible. And, for Statehouse employees who so desire, **earplugs will be available** at the front reception desk in Legislative Services Office, Room 108. "We want to thank everyone for their patience as the restoration work gets underway and continues over the next several years," commented Pam Ahrens, Director of the Department of Administration and a Member of the Idaho Capitol Commission.

**Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to Diane Garcia [dgarcia@adm.state.id.us](mailto:dgarcia@adm.state.id.us)**  
(Watch for future issues of *renewal news* on Restoration activity)